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# ON THE WAY TO FREEDOM

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AWAY WITH "DIVINE RIGHT"

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AFTER THE WAR IS OVER?

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GEORGE W. MOREHOUSE

Author "Wilderness of Worlds," Etc.

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**T**HE crime of unrestricted submarine assassination was the last hope of the last of the Kaisers—that failing—the question of the liberalization of the world comes to the front. This is the great crisis of all human history; every man must do his full duty—and then some more. Every hour counts. Democracy must unite and fight to win—fight for life.

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## AWAY WITH "DIVINE RIGHT"

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It is related in history that pious King Frederick William I of Prussia, father of the Great Frederick, made vast preparations for war, and passionately compelled his son to become fitted to a military career and for "defensive-offensive" warfare to extend the boundaries of his kingdom. The old king imagined that a large body of well-trained giants would overawe any possible enemies, and he foolishly devoted large sums of money to gather together, equip and maintain a regiment of giants and gigantic wives for them.

When Frederick succeeded to the throne he inherited the ready army and the full treasury, together with all the "divine right," and without delay proceeded to use them by commencing a war of conquest on Austria—according to the wishes of his royal house. He became a great strategist and met with such success as a general that the great powers of Europe combined against him. However, it remained for the present representatives of the same ruling family of Prussia and Prussianized Germany to invent and employ more refined methods of cruelty than Frederick had ever known—and that reversion has come after more than another century of "Christian civilization."

Men are even less rigid than rubber, but when the limit is once reached the rebound is as sure. Representative government, progressing toward pure democracy, is ideal, and at this hour seems to be almost in sight.

Gigantic men, gigantic soldiers, gigantic armies, gigantic nations, go down to defeat because of the enemies they provoke. If they were content in the possession of their own just share of the little planet and its crops, their safety would be assured—then no invincible combinations could be formed against them. But they forget the fate of historic conquerors—ancient and modern. Frederick was content to pass his last years in peace—and rather admired our Washington.

The present ambitious ruler and his group will have their day, and be eliminated amid crumbling thrones. Palaces will be gladly exchanged for cottages—to save from worse fate. The effete and the unworthy must give room to the products

of a higher evolution—autocracy must yield to the representative republican or democratic form of government—government resting firmly on the consent of the governed. Such government, so founded, is the only one that can be lasting—and it must embrace individual and local self-government, states, nations, and, finally, the republic of the world, to which all international disputes would have to be referred for final adjudication.

Inventive genius is encircling the world. All peoples are fast becoming very close neighbors and are reaching a better understanding of one another. They can soon cease to keep up expensive division fences of bayonets, and carefully provide a world power to enforce peace, safety, justice and efficient cooperation. Disagreements are certain to arise among groups smaller than world-wide.

The duty of the hour is union, a strong fight, working all as one for a quick and enduring finish. Let us all do our *best* to carry the banner of the free forward to the most advanced position possible.

The mistaken and ambitious "divine right rulers" have appealed to fire and sword. Wo to mankind through many generations, if the friends of democracy are half-hearted in this struggle. The battle is on and near its crisis. Let freemen rise from the ends of the earth and make sure that cruel aggression suffers defeat. The cause of liberty is now represented by the brains, men and means that constitute the sinews of war. The self-glorification of the common enemy cannot count against the mature judgment of mankind. Liberty is invincible.

Kings, kaisers, monarchies have been tried and found wanting. Democracies have been tried, and *they have served*. Uphold them. Freedom is expensive, but is worth all it costs. Your boy will refuse to be bound apprentice to a king.

Let us maintain the constitution and the laws and follow with united purpose the able President we have chosen. We cannot honorably and safely do otherwise. United purpose wins. The glorious legacy of freedom bequeathed to this generation of Americans, won and preserved by struggles as hard as this of today, must be maintained in full measure and safely transmitted by us to posterity.

Americans cannot dodge this duty if they would, and would not if they could. It is a sacred privilege to serve so

great and just a cause. This generation, like its ancestry, is worthy and the highest hopes of mankind will be fully justified by the emancipation of the world. Who can doubt that justice and right will prevail? Mother Nature has no favorites—the sun shines for all.

Right *now*, the Prussian military group might consent to a world democracy—with a Hohenzollern for *emperor*. Even a figurehead king in times of stress is a dangerous luxury. Nations better abstain from such indulgence and avoid setting or *continuing* bad examples. The crisis is on, and the decks of nations as well as ships should be cleared for most effective action. Eyes to the front does not mean looking backward for inspiration.

The claim of “divine rights” may cease to be classed as a *delusion*, and be treated as *criminal*. This course may yet become necessary in defense of justice for all. The urgent cry of humanity for equal rights is heard in every land. Delays are getting dangerous—uneasy crowned heads take notice. Germany must be shaken to the center by revolution of overwhelming defeat, to awaken her from this autocratic dream of power and military nightmare.

The world is rapidly outgrowing fatherlandism, and is entering an era of motherlandism—and the mother is known as Mother Earth. The Sun is the father. The Sun is rising. Let us do honor to our parents and ourselves by word and deed.—Truth Seeker, New York, Oct. 13, 1917.

G. W. MOREHOUSE.

## AFTER THE STORM OF WAR IS OVER?

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What shall we prepare to build? What shall democracy re-build? after the flood of war has subsided, after the consuming fires are extinguished, after the hurricane is past and the skies begin to clear? This is the most important question. Our minds should be drawn to it in time for thorough study of the issues involved. Our brain matter must become more and more familiar with fundamental truths. The new world structure needs to be well founded, carefully constructed and enduring—to avoid renewal of the conflict.

Already, church buildings, and religious organizations, in common with other unions and groups, are being used for patriotic and other liberal purposes. There is no way of escaping natural evolution. The world moves. When the eagle flies its feathers go along with it.

What material can be safely used for the foundation? Certainly it would be dangerous to use old discarded rubbish—like the twin relics of barbarism—autocracy and theology. We must take the later and better products of evolution—democracy and science. Beware of thrones of all sorts and sizes.

Kaisers, kings and cabbages are alike in this—a super-kaiser, super-king, or super-cabbage will swell up and burst. Tip over cabbages and thrones when they grow too big—this loosens their feed roots.

Liberty cannot long exist where thrones and pulpits jointly or severally thrive. Either of the two, by itself, is a threat, when wedded, as usually they are, danger is imminent. Divorce is only a palliative,—practical education in science and democracy is the safe and sure cure.

Shall the throes of war be in vain? No, a thousand times, no. Much that is worth while shall be born; a new era dawns for the inhabitants of Earth. If we perform well our part, the vast energies directed toward winning in the great conflict, at its conclusion will be diverted toward making life better worth living for every inhabitant of the planet. In the course of time wisely directed work will accomplish



wonders. But there are difficulties, principally arising from a great many varieties of hogs. It may be said of all of them that the first hog at the trough is the first at the pork barrel. The united world democracy will be strong enough to dump the big ones out of the trough into the ditch to stand an equal chance with the rest.

The world democracy, united, will furnish the born architects, the new material and enlightened builders. It does not take a divine prophet to foresee great things in the future for emancipated truthseekers. None can foretell the ultimate limits that may be reached when individual initiative and freedom receive the powerful support of world-wide power. Strength and wisdom united can march onward with confidence—without fear of the skies, the dark, or the unknown.

If democracy remains careful and painstaking in the new life of the world it will learn the lesson of self control, and will know itself and apply its energies in farsighted ways to improve and make serviceable natural changes and conditions. Painstaking, honest scientific research will guide the way and save from many a blundering fall. False lights in Earth or sky will be ignored and lie harmless in the rubbish heap of the decaying past. The thought and energy of the world can be devoted to present need and future good—to the highest life of this habitable little planet.

Life, whether individual or collective, high or low, of a shoal of fish or a race of men, is the adjustment of protoplasm to its changing environment. As the individual fish or man matures, more elbow-room is required and the strong chief or monarchy principle is outgrown and the liberty of democracy is demanded.

The life of the planet itself may be so used as to add in as high degree as possible to its desirability and duration. To this end, we must endeavor to harmonize our work with the methods of Nature. We can do this and at the same time helpfully divert our energies from destructive and harmful pursuits to those that are beneficial. The gun and bayonet, supernaturalism and monarchy, may be replaced by the plow and hoe, science and democracy. Only just sufficient force should be kept ready by the representative world government to maintain law and order, justice and peace. Then, with no time or inclination for mischief, all could do their welcome parts in the garden of the world and live long in comfort and happiness.

Is this only the dream of an idealist? Let us analyze:

Good soldiers make good citizens, as was clearly proved, both sides of the line, in the years following the Civil War. This is especially true of men who go into the ranks to defend principles they believe to be right. Of such men there are many millions in the present war. The returning veterans will be trained, disciplined, and graduated from a very practical school indeed. They will know the world and its ways much more thoroughly than the average citizen by reason of the war experience and travels.

The soldier learns how to take care of himself, his food and belongings, to avoid excess and waste and be reasonable and obedient—he has to think and be fit. He has a fair start on the road to success. He has compared ideas with many others and knows himself. He does not shy at trifles. He does not fear spooks. His controlling impulse is to advance. As a truth loving citizen he would be expected to beware of pitfalls, and the wiles of political, theological or other enemies. He has arrived and his eyes are open. He is patient and slow to wrath, but abundant in righteous anger. He is trustworthy. He has plenty of friends and is a wall of defense, and knows the controlling power of the ballot and public opinion. In this field, also, hours of advance follow years of preparation.

Even war is not all bad. Many formidable barriers to progress are swept away by the mighty storm of war—leaving inviting ways open to build new pathways to unite mankind. Men and nations and races meet and learn to know one another better and all become more tolerant and friendly from their new and more enlightened view points. In this sense this last war may be regarded, like commerce, as a civilizer of nations. Enemies, strangers, become close neighbors, and later, friends.

Wealth is stored energy and its gigantic power expended in urgent strife has vastly promoted inventive genius. Of this gain the new world will take quick advantage and divert many appliances into peaceful and harmonious channels. The new world embraces the old and turns it into new pastures.

The air becomes a free and unobstructed highway for airplanes. The atmosphere is the highest, the deepest, the broadest, the safest and the greatest free ocean of the globe. The war will bequeath to it thousands of planes, plenty of inventors, builders, materials and experienced aviators. The airmen will have jobs, and thousands of men and women will connect the nations and rival the birds.

All the waters of the globe will be dotted with ships that can be converted into suitable bearers of the growing commerce of the revived world—ships that can brave storms and submarines that can go safely under tempests. Thousands of trained men will be ready for the work. Shipyards and sailors will be busy and the commerce of the world will revive and the coming men will be civilized and enlightened.

Highways and railroads, telegraphs, telephony, wireless, all means of transit and communication, will be improved and extended. Inventors and manufacturers will be busy, not on machines and engines of destruction, but on tractors and utensils to advance the general welfare. The world will move at an accelerated pace, and business and pleasure will chase each other with flying feet,—all too busy to fight.

Straits and streams will require new and more bridges. Canals will connect oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, cities and agricultural and manufacturing districts. Rivers and river valleys will be straightened, deepened, shortened and widened by Nature and work, "trench" work, machine work, for aeration, navigation, irrigation, until all valleys, connected, burst into blossom and overflow with vast riches of the harvest. Energy under world-wide systematic control for the benefit of the general population will bring good and certain results.

In place of obsolete lordly mansions and palaces will be seen the quiet, neat little homes of the free. Quality will be valued, and count for far more than mere size and cost.

In place of the broad acres of proud aristocrats, the little farms of five, ten, forty acres will be prized by the happy families that till and adorn them—each home a school of beauty and reason, of science and truth.

In place of the costly church, dodging just taxation, will be built observatories, laboratories and halls to spread the truths of the natural sciences. More useful and less pretentious buildings will suffice for schools of ethics and reason, history and philosophy, and general instruction and entertainment. Imposing pretention will be discounted. The coming man will turn a deaf ear to fakers and will have no use for fetishes,—neither will he be a man worshipper. His brain will be used as a storeroom for think stuff.

Men shall be known by their deeds, not by costly monuments, creeds, titles, pride, greed, or family. Democracy means justice, good order, right living and equality before the law and in the public opinion of mankind. Can any one give

a good reason why men should not enjoy the benefits of democracy?

Forget nonessentials—remember facts. Banish fear; ignore well-paid humbugs; be never too old to learn; educate yourselves and your children—study thoroughly every leaf, every page and paragraph in the mighty book of *Nature*—the only positively known book of truth—and that truth, the living truth of the living universe, will make you free.

The government formed and maintained by the free independent units of the emancipated world will be free, just, safe and pure one—a living organism, constantly growing better as long as the natural conditions of our planet remain endurable.

In the course of time, necessity will compel mighty improvements, through the ballot—we can do effective work along this line and hasten the day of regeneration if we are wise enough to use opportunities. The United States does not want to conquer or control other powers, but does earnestly desire to have all nations profit by the experience of this people. No one nation, no group of nations, is competent to govern those who do not give their consent, but a helping hand may be extended.

Let us have a steady and sure, sharp and quick, triumph of democracy in this war, followed by a permanent union of the nations. Our planet is cooling and aging—time is passing, and it is for the people to say what they will build.

Thinking to end this article with the above paragraph I laid aside my pen, but another morning has dawned and it is resumed. The complete victory of democracy marks the departure of savage autocracy and, perhaps, the doctrine of "divine right of kings" goes with it. We see one relic of barbarism overthrown, but where is the other twin relic? It, too, needs must be shorn of its claim to "divine right," and be restricted to a human, business basis, and forever be prevented from mixing religion with affairs of state. The living world will move ahead and such impediments will be abandoned.

What word shall we use? All men and women are more or less muzzled—kept in fear—the statesman by his constituents and the clergyman by his creed and congregation and they by him—the professor by his college—the husband by the wife, and there are the neighbors, all of us are guilty. Has there ever been such a thing as full free expression? We sometimes dare to whisper behind locked doors, but fear to launch our best thoughts in the open.



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